

INDIANA LAND IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Meeting of Board of Directors
Wednesday, January 28, 2026

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Land Improvement Contractors Association was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Carmel, IN, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. The meeting was called to order by President, Keith Miller at 5:00 p.m. EST.

Introductions were made by all attendees.

Chris Smidler moved to have an open agenda. Kevin Hohman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Minutes: The minutes from the December 2025 meeting had been emailed to board members. Tony Cain moved to accept the minutes as reported. James Ramsey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Smidler read the written treasurer's report. Total assets = \$195,524.94. Nanci stated that this balance does not include convention expense. The Ladies savings account has \$7,043.96 net of this year's scholarships. In an effort to earn more interest, James Ramsey moved to review the accounts and available interest rate options at the March meeting. John Hack II seconded the motion. The motion passed. Tony Cain moved to accept the treasurer's report. Bryan Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed. The budget for the coming year was presented for board members to review.

Presidents's Report: Keith Miller reported he attended the Illinois state convention. He has been working with the field day committee. The national committee has been working on the design-your-own safety manual. Keith has also been working with Nanci concerning convention and other organization business.

National Report: Tony Cain talked about the new LICA CEO. His name is Dennis Mikula. Tony is pleased with the job Dennis is doing so far. He also attended the Illinois state convention and is looking forward to National and ConExpo in Las Vegas.

Area Directors' Reports: SE - Brendon Sasser reported there is 18 inches of snow in the Connersville area. All areas reported no activity right now due to the snow and extremely cold conditions.

Executive Director's Report: Nanci Gutwein presented a written report detailing her activities. Most of her efforts have concentrated on convention preparations and connecting with new members.

Technical Advisor's Report: Mike Cox and Scott Wagner will be giving an NRCS update tomorrow.

Legislative Report: This topic will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting.

Education Advisor: Jane Frankenberger will zoom in for the field day session tomorrow. John Hack II stated that the OSHA training in Lafayette was good. He floated the idea of having a job fair/career day for younger kids.

Old Business:

Field Day: Keith Miller presented a proposed schedule for the field day combined with National convention. In order for the National executive board and staff to attend the field day/convention, INLICA will need to fund their travel and hotel expenses which are estimated to cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. The Beck Center is being made available for meetings at a cost of \$1200 per day. There was considerable discussion as to whether INLICA should agree to pay costs for National. A decision will be made at the annual meeting tomorrow. Keith talked further about the field day plan and the need for many volunteers. He stated that the Lafayette fire department plans to show a full version of their trench rescue. Most of the lateral installation will need to be completed before the field day.

By-Law Review: The by-laws have been reviewed and some minor changes and clarifications identified. Copies were distributed with proposed changes in red print. A vote will take place tomorrow.

ADMC dues are needing to be renewed. The cost for regular dues is \$1500. Tony Cain moved to pay these dues. Brendon Sasser seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nanci has signed up for the Titanium credit card system so payments may be received by credit card. This option was discussed at the December meeting.

New Business:

It was brought to the attention of the board that the scholarship fund is now down to a little over \$7,000. After some discussion, Tony Cain moved to limit the scholarships to two scholarships per year each paying \$2,000. Bryan Noggle seconded the motion. The motion passed. Steve Holtzleiter mentioned that other states offer their scholarships to children and grandchildren of associates as well as contractor members. James Ramsey moved to allow children and grandchildren of associate members to apply for our scholarships with preference being given to Indiana based associate businesses first. Todd Gross seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nanci Gutwein advised the board that a recording secretary will be needed starting at the end of the convention. It was suggested that perhaps the meetings could be recorded and minutes written from the recording. Hailee Young suggested Microsoft Copilot works well in meeting situations. Nanci will do more research on these options.

Nanci presented the following for associate membership:

Busey Bank in Carmel, IN with contact person Cully Day
Grinnell Mutual in Colton SD

James Ramsey moved to accepted these new members. Sam Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

It was suggested that INLICA hold a job fair at the state convention to try to get more workers for contractors. It was also suggested that the job fair be held at the area meetings. Another suggestion was to have a booth at the FFA national convention which will be in Indianapolis for the next several years. Nanci will find out about the cost and logistics for a booth.

John Pickering stated that Jim Beatty has suggested INLICA have people to man the State Fair exhibit especially during busy fair days and those especially associated with agriculture. It was mentioned that there is a Buckeye 302 machine in running condition for sale in Michigan at a cost of \$3,000.

A card for Darrell Birge was passed for members to sign.

There being no further business, Nate Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. John Hack II seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Frieda Pickering, Recording Secretary

Attendees:

President -	Keith Miller
Vice-President -	Nate Miller
Treasurer -	Chris Smidler
Executive Director -	Nanci Gutwein
Recording Sec -	Frieda Pickering
National Officer -	Tony Cain
NW Director -	John Hack II
	Sam Baker
SE Director -	John Pickering
	James Ramsey
	Brendon Sasser
NE Director -	Guilford Wehr, Jr.
	Todd Gross
	Kevin Hohman
At Large -	Joe Stull
	Bryan Noggle
Associates -	Steve Holtzleiter
	Nathan Darter
INLICA member -	Gabe Pankop
Guest -	Hailee Young
	Allison Hack
	Caroline Krug